AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 25: (Previously cancelled)

1
~~26~~. (Previously Presented) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line; and

a control tone transmitter to transmit a control signal to which a central office modem in a central office (CO) of a communication system is not receptive for signaling said at least one other NDSL modem to be ready to receive data packets.

2 1
27. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~26~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

3 1
~~28~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~26~~ and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver.

4 3
~~29~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~28~~ wherein said transmitter and receiver perform time division multiplexing (TDM).

5 1
~~30~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~26~~ and also comprising an RF transceiver for control of a home device.

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~~31~~ 6. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~26~~ 1 and also comprising a DSL modem to communicate with said CO along said xDSL telephone line.

~~32~~ 9. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~31~~ 6 and wherein said DSL modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

~~33~~ 8. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~31~~ 6 wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

~~34~~ 9. (Previously Presented) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a DSL modem to communicate with a central office (CO) of a communication system along said xDSL telephone line; and

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line.

~~35~~ 10. (Currently Amended) The modem according to claim ~~34~~ 9 and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver and said DSL modem comprises and upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

~~36~~ 14. (Currently Amended) The modem according to claim ~~4634~~ 13 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

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11 9
~~37~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~34~~ wherein said network modem performs time division multiplexing (TDM) and said DSL modem operates according to the xDSL protocol.

12 9
~~38~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~34~~ wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

15
~~39~~. (Previously Presented) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication to a central office modem in a CO of a communication system is desired, transmitting data to the CO modem in an xDSL upstream frequency band and receiving data therefrom in an xDSL downstream frequency band;

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

transmitting a control signal to which said central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

16 15
~~40~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim ~~39~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

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17 15
~~41~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim ~~39~~ wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM) and wherein said transmitting and receiving comprises operating according to the xDSL protocol.

18 15
~~42~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~39~~ wherein ~~a said second transmitting does not occur when said first transmitting and receiving occurs.~~ said two transmitting steps do not occur at generally the same time.

19
~~43~~. (Previously Presented) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

determining that none of the NDSL modems are communicating with a central office modem in a CO of a communication system;

if no NDSL modems are communicating, transmitting a control signal to which a central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

20 19
~~44~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim ~~43~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

21 19
~~45~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim ~~43~~ wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM).

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~~46~~ 15. (New) The modem according to claim ~~34~~ 9 wherein said network modem comprises a control tone transmitter to transmit a control signal to which a central office modem in a central office (CO) of a communication system is not receptive for signaling said at least one other NDSL modem to be ready to receive data packets.